6/22/70

4 Night-Riding Cases Dismissed

On recommendation of the state, Criminal Court Judge Perry Sellers today dismissed without costs charges of violating the night-riding statute against four defendants.

Certain language in the statute was held unconstitutional recently by federal court.

The Negro defendants are Carl Armstrong, 23, of 236 Ashland; Gwendolyn White, 24, of 373 Pontotoc; Carolyn Thomas, 20, of 435 E. Vance, and Eddie Tate, 22, who is now serving a sentence for armed robbery in Arkansas.

They were arrested Feb. 10, 1969 on complaint of Mike Talarico, owner of the Jump and Grab grocery at 591 Crump while picketing the store in protest of the arrest of black militant Lance Watson. Talarico claimed they were interfering with his business.

Watson, arrested at the store in a previous incident, was later acquitted by a jury of a disorderly conduct charge.